

RCW 51.04.180 State of emergency—Safety grant program

expenditures—Procedures. (1) In the event of a state of emergency as defined in RCW 43.06.010(12), the director is authorized to expend up to two percent per year of the net premiums earned in the accident fund in the prior fiscal year for the purpose of a safety grant program so long as the assets of the accident fund and pension reserve fund were at least 10 percent in excess of their funded liabilities in the fiscal quarter immediately preceding the state of emergency proclamation.

(2) The safety grant program shall provide one-time grants to employers to purchase equipment, gear, or make capital improvements so long as the purchase is not covered by another grant, government program, or insurance contract. The department may require matching funds from employers. Employers must apply for grants using an application developed by the department.

(3) Employers shall apply the safety grants to purchases of equipment, gear, or capital costs to meet any new safety and health requirements related to the emergency that are required before they are permitted to continue or resume business operations.

(4) An appropriation is not required for expenditures under this section.

(5) Only employers who pay premiums to the state fund as defined in RCW 51.08.175, are not self-insured as defined in RCW 51.08.173, and have 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees are eligible for funding under this section.

(6) All funds expended from the accident fund for grants under this section must be reimbursed to the accident fund from the state general fund in the omnibus appropriations act adopted for the biennium following the expenditures.

(7) Rules that are adopted to implement this section must be done in consultation with stakeholders. Rules must include but are not limited to:

(a) Guidance for grant awards based on the type, scope, and time frame of a specific declared emergency; and

(b) Criteria for prioritizing grants for eligible recipients.

[2021 c 253 § 5.]

Rule-making authority—Worker safety and health—2021 c 253: See note following RCW 49.17.130.